

185 through amino acid 245 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or amino acid 186 through amino acid 246 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 2.

42. (New) The isolated mammalian Gax protein of claim 41 wherein said Gax protein is a the human Gax protein and comprises amino acid 185 through amino acid 245 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4.

43. (New) The isolated mammalian Gax protein of claim 41 wherein said Gax protein is a rat Gax protein and comprises amino acid 186 through amino acid 246 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2.

44. (New) The isolated mammalian Gax protein of claim 41 wherein said protein comprises amino acid 1 through amino acid 302 of SEQ ID NO. 4.

45. (New) The isolated mammalian Gax protein of claim 41 wherein said protein comprises amino acid 1 through amino acid 303 of SEQ ID NO. 2.

46. (New) An isolated Gax protein that inhibits vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation, said Gax protein having a molecular weight of from 30 to 36 kDa, and an amino acid sequence comprising: (a) a first region comprising amino acid 1 through amino acid 57 and amino acid 59 through amino acid 67 of SEQ. ID. NO. 4; (b) a second region of from about 11 to about 12 histidine residues; and (c) a third region comprising amino acid 76 through amino acid 87, amino acid 89 through amino acid 144, amino acid 146 through amino acid 156, amino acid 158 through amino acid 162, amino acid 164 through amino acid 287, amino acid 289 through amino acid 290, and amino acid 292 through amino acid 302 of SEQ. ID. NO. 4.

47. (New) The isolated mammalian Gax protein of claim 1 wherein said protein comprises an OPA transcribed repeat and an amino acid sequence that is at least 97% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 2 or the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4.